

OKINAWA MARINE

JUNE 7, 2013

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Values cards issued to Marines, sailors

Capt. Caleb D. Eames

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Service members assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific are being issued a wallet-sized card as a reminder of the Marine Corps' values and the significance of being ambassadors in Japan and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The cards reinforce positive behavior by serving as a reminder to every Marine and sailor to align their decisions and actions with the principles etched on the card.

"The card will be a tool every III MEF and MCIPAC Marine, from private to general, will keep with them as a constant reminder of our core values," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck, commanding general,

III MEF. "It serves as a constant reminder of our heritage, our traditions and the ideals that have made the Corps what it is today."

The front of the card shows three Marines in different uniforms, including civilian attire, combat utilities and the dress blue uniform, along with the words, "We keep our honor clean."

"This reminds each Marine or sailor that they are always ambassadors and are constantly under the spotlight whether on base, on liberty or defending our nation or allies," said Sgt. Maj. Steven D. Morefield, sergeant major, III MEF.

The back of the card contains language emphasizing honor, courage and commitment, as well as respect and dignity.

The border of the card lists

see **VALUES** pg 5



Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., left, presents Lance Cpl. Lahmia M. Hegwood with the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific values card June 3 at Camp Courtney. The values card will serve as a reminder to Marines of their duties and responsibilities as ambassadors of the U.S. while stationed overseas. Glueck is the commanding general of III MEF, and Hegwood is a combat camera production specialist with combat camera, G-3/5, operations and training, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, MCIPAC. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

Exercise CARAT '13 underway

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An Indonesia Marine conducts military operations in urban terrain training with U.S. Marines May 24 during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013 in Antralina, Indonesia. More than 1,000 sailors and Marines are participating in CARAT Indonesia 2013, which is a series of bilateral military exercises between the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the armed forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and Timor-Leste. The Indonesia Marine is with Company A, 6th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, Korps Marinir, and the U.S. Marines are with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Cpl. John C. Lamb

Volunteers clean, beautify Okinawa

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

NAGO CITY, Japan — Marines and sailors of Camp Schwab and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma cleaned nearby areas as part of "Okinawa 5.30 Go-Mi-Zero," an islandwide beautification campaign, May 30.

For the purpose of the campaign, Okinawa 5.30 has two meanings. The first references the date of the event, May 30. The second meaning alludes to the pronunciation of the date in Japanese "go-mi-zero," or "no gomi," gomi being the Japanese word for garbage. Organizers of the campaign asked local residents to clean their neighborhoods as a way to beautify Okinawa.

Camp Schwab volunteers picked up litter at a waterfront in the Futami district in Nago. MCAS Futenma volunteers cleared trash along the road to their main gate.

The Go-Mi-Zero highlighted the efforts

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Marine recognized by the Okinawa City Police.

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Spouses connect, build camaraderie.

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Critical Days of Summer

Avoid potential hazards by planning ahead

Daryl E. Avery

Summertime fun is upon us once again. Swimwear is flying off the store racks, the air and water temperatures are rising, and beaches are filling with laughter and joy.

The summer months can be filled with a multitude of activities such as swimming, biking, camping, running, or just going for a relaxing walk. The sun-filled days on Okinawa are a great time to accommodate all of these activities, and then some.

However, with the increase of outdoor activity comes a greater chance for mishaps. Therefore, the Marine Corps Installations Pacific installation safety office hosts a campaign known as the “Critical Days of Summer.” This year’s campaign began May 27 and ends Sept. 2 with the motto “Live to play, play to live.”

According to the Naval Safety Center, between Memorial Day and Labor Day of 2012, the Department of the Navy lost 20 sailors and 13 Marines — a total of 33 families changed forever due to mishaps. Of the 33 fatalities, 27 involved personal motor vehicles, two were from drownings, one while riding a bicycle on base, one was associated with a personal watercraft, and two were pedestrians struck while they were walking.

Many, if not all, mishaps are preventable. Common factors leading to mishaps include lack of situational awareness, inattention to the task at hand and inadequate use of the risk assessment process. Each and every member of our community should take

precautions to help prevent mishaps.

All Marines and sailors have a responsibility to use personal risk management. Prior to participating in an activity, especially a new activity, analyze it step by step. Are you able to identify potential hazards? What can you do to eliminate or reduce the hazard?

The challenge of preventing a mishap is to break the chain of events leading up to the moment of the accident. If something doesn’t look or feel right, stop and assess the situation and determine the best course of action to break the chain.

“All Marines and sailors have a responsibility to use personal risk management.”

Marines and sailors also need to be open with their leadership and let them know in which activities they participate. There are many summertime activities deemed high risk, and leaders need to be involved to help avert potential injuries or fatalities. Supervisors should engage and get involved with their personnel to find out what they are doing while off duty, as well as provide guidance to help them avoid becoming a tragic statistic. What you say and do could lead to a Marine or sailor making the right decision versus the wrong one.

The topics highlighted from the Naval Safety Center for the 2013 Critical Days of Summer campaign are personal motor vehicle safety, responsible alcohol use, water safety, sexual assault prevention and suicide prevention awareness. Break the chain of events ... prevent an incident.

For more information on CDS safety practices, visit the Naval Safety Center website at <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/>.

Avery is the supervisory safety and occupational specialist with the Marine Corps Installations Pacific Installation Safety Office.



AROUND THE CORPS



An air-cushioned landing craft assigned to the USS Kearsarge transports light armored vehicles and Humvees assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit May 27 off the coast of Djibouti. The 26th MEU is part of the II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Cpl. Kyle N. Runnels



U.S. Marines with Romeo Battery fire rockets from an M142 high-mobility artillery rocket system June 1 on Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan. The training was used as a chance to sharpen the skills of the Marines in the battery. The battery is with 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 7, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and is deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by Sgt. Anthony L. Ortiz



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The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band's drum line performs June 1 at the Camp Foster Theater during the band's Friendship Summer Concert. "We represent a small piece of the U.S., so I think the community really looks forward to coming to our concerts," said Gunnery Sgt. William D. Mike III, the drum major with the band. "It gives them a taste of what some of us call home." Photo by Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

III MEF Band promotes friendship during summer concert

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Service and community members gathered to watch the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band perform its Friendship Summer Concert June 1 at the Camp Foster Theater.

The two free performances were open to the public and included genres ranging from pop to marching band music.

The concert's title accurately embodied one of the band's goals, which is to develop a connection with the community through music, according to Gunnery Sgt. William D. Mike III, the drum major with the band.

"The old cliché, 'music is a universal language' applies, especially here on Okinawa," said Mike. "It's about making an emotional connection with the audience. If we move their hearts, if we get them feeling something during the concert, then we've done our job."

Members of the audience realized and appreciated the sense of togetherness promoted by the band, according to Asami Shiroma, a concert attendee.

"I really enjoyed today's concert and the friendship we have with the III MEF band," said Shiroma. "I'm a fan of the band, and I came here to share in the friendship we have with the service members."

Band members felt the high level of preparation put into the event contributed greatly to the emotional impact felt by the audience.

The preparation was not easy, but well worth it, according to Lance Cpl. Kyle M. Lota, a trumpeter for the band.

"At times it was very difficult squeezing in rehearsal time, but overall I think the concert was a huge success," said Lota.

Throughout the performance, Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove, officer in charge of the band, narrated for the audience along with the help of interpreter Aya Toyama.

The concert featured several distinct pieces of music and ensembles, such as a saxophone quartet, a brass band and a large jazz ensemble. The event concluded with the entire III MEF Band playing its instruments while marching through the aisles of the theater.

"The best part was when the whole band came out and went into the crowd," said Shiroma.

The band members plan to continue their mission of promoting friendship through music, and they hope the community looks forward to attending and enjoying more concerts in the future as well, according to Mike.

"We represent a small piece of the U.S., so I think the community really looks forward to coming to our performances," said Mike. "It gives them a taste of what some of us call home."

BRIEFS

MARINE AND SAILOR SUCCESS PROGRAM OFFERING CLASSES

The Marine and sailor success program will be accepting applications until Aug. 1 for classes beginning Aug. 19.

The program offers an opportunity for service members to be enrolled in an eight-week academic program to strengthen English and mathematics skills for future career and educational goals.

For more information regarding the program, call the MCCS Education Services Officer at 645-7160.

EXTENSION OF OVERSEAS HOUSING ALLOWANCE SURVEY

The Overseas Housing Allowance Utility/Move-In Housing Allowance Survey for Japan has been extended to June 17.

Service members are encouraged to participate so that accurate utility and move-in allowances are established by the Defense Travel Management Office.

The survey can be accessed from the links below:

- <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/oha-util-may.cfm>
- <http://www.usfj.mil/>

TAX FILING SEASON ALMOST OVER

Overseas service members have until June 15 to file their taxes. The tax center is open to assist service members file their 2012 taxes. The last day the tax center will be open is June 14.

For more information on hours of operation, call the Camp Hansen tax center at 623-3535 or the Camp Foster tax center at 645-4520.

NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION WELCOME ABOARD

All accompanied Marines and sailors, civilian employees, family members age 10 and up, and all unaccompanied Marines and sailors E-6 and above are required to attend the Newcomers Orientation Welcome Aboard briefing within two weeks of arrival on Okinawa.

NOWA is offered every Wednesday from 7:20 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sponsors can call 645-8395/9626/7494 to register both active-duty service members, family members and civilians who are required to attend.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Harriers strengthen 31st MEU



An AV-8B Harrier II with Marine Attack Squadron 513 lands on the Kadena Air Base flight line May 24. The Harrier is one of three with the squadron that flew from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni to be transferred to Marine Attack Squadron 214, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which will be assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force, in support of operations and exercises. VMA-513 is scheduled to be deactivated this summer following 69 years of service. Photo by Lance Cpl. John S. Gargano

1st MAW resumes program following aircraft arrival



A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter exits the front of an opened C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft June 3 on the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma flight line. The aircraft is part of an aviation detachment in Okinawa that is being reestablished under the unit deployment program. The commandant of the Marine Corps established the UDP in October 1977 to provide for the deployment of units to the Asia-Pacific region for periods of approximately six months. With the recent reduction of forces deployed to U.S. Central Command, the Marine Corps is resuming the regular UDP cycle of units rotating from U.S. home stations. The CH-53E is with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772, Marine Aircraft Group 49, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve, currently assigned to 1st MAW under the UDP. The C-5 is with the 337th Airlift Squadron, 439th Operations Group, 439th Airlift Wing, 22nd Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command.

Photo by Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

Okinawa City Police recognize Marine for professionalism

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

OKINAWA CITY, OKINAWA, Japan — Members of the Okinawa City police presented Sgt. Matthew P. Nelson with a letter of appreciation May 30 at the Okinawa City Police Headquarters office.

Nelson, the chief investigator with the accident investigation section, Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific, was recognized for his assistance and professionalism while investigating traffic accidents for the past three years with members of the Okinawa City Police Headquarters.

"Nelson was a great help with the investigations of accidents that involved military personnel," said Assistant Commissioner Chibana Kojun, of the Okinawa City Police. "He helped ask questions we had

pertaining to mishaps and helped us with our investigations, so we could determine the cause of the accidents."

After the presentation of the letter, Nelson gave remarks, thanking the Okinawa Police for the award.

"I could not have received this letter of appreciation if it was not for the help of my fellow Marines and the Okinawa Police," said Nelson. "It has been terrific working with the Okinawa Police, and I hope that our relationship continues to grow as we continue to work together."

"Through close cooperation, Nelson established an excellent working relationship with the Okinawa Police Department and contributed to the maintenance of public safety," said Kojun. "It was a great pleasure to present the letter of appreciation along with a commemorative memento to Nelson on behalf of the Okinawa City Police Headquarters."

Working with the Okinawa City Police was an enjoyable experience, and the relationships between the two law enforcement agencies, as well as capabilities, has greatly improved because of the close working relationship, according to Nelson.

"It's an honor to receive this recognition," said Nelson. "The Okinawa Police were very easy to work with and made investigations of accidents easier. Whenever we needed help with the investigations, they were more than willing to assist."

Prior to the ceremony, the leaders from the investigation section of the Okinawa City Police Headquarters and AIS discussed future training opportunities.

"The Okinawa Police and military police are working together to create more opportunities to train and work together to ensure we are better prepared for any accidents that may happen in the future," said Kazufumi Miyazato, the chief inspector for the Okinawa City Police Headquarters. "I feel that this continued training will further improve our capabilities."



Sgt. Matthew P. Nelson bows as he accepts a letter of appreciation from Assistant Commissioner Chibana Kojun on behalf of the Okinawa City Police Headquarters May 30 at its headquarters. Nelson is the chief investigator with the accident investigation section of the Provost Marshal's Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

9th ESB welcomes new commander



Reidenbach



Baldwin

Lt. Col. Gary R. Reidenbach assumed command of 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Lt. Col. Scott A. Baldwin during a ceremony on Camp Hansen June 4. Baldwin commanded 9th ESB since June 2011 and will attend the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Reidenbach's previous assignment was at Quantico, Va., where he served as the branch head for the Engineer Equipment Requirements section, Logistics Integration Division, Capabilities Development Directorate, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Headquarters Marine Corps.

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of Marines and sailors who volunteered with the Futami district in an official capacity, according to Satoshi Gisushi, the Futami district community relations warden.

“The spirit behind doing this volunteer work, under constructive intentions, will leave a positive influence on the local community,” said Gisushi. “As long as that spreads throughout the Marine Corps and more Marines decide to help out with the local community, people will come together and have a closer relationship with the Marine Corps.”

The service members hope that the cleanup continues to build strong ties with the local community around Camp Schwab, according to Gunnery Sgt. Jack A. Stolz, the company first sergeant of Combat Engineering Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

“The idea is to be involved with the community and show that Marines are not here just to train on base,” said Stolz. “It’s always good to be involved, whether it’s overseas or stateside.”

The Marines and sailors spent hours clearing the waterfront and ultimately picked up over 30 bags of litter.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jay A. Domingo, a hospital corpsman with the CAB, noted that Marines and sailors are sincere in their efforts to keep Okinawa clean and beautiful.

“The cleanup shows that we’re willing to help out the community,” said Domingo. “It shows that we support them, and it fosters a good relationship all around.”

The Camp Schwab volunteers included senior staff noncommissioned officers with CAB who came



Sgt. Coby L. Caldwell and Yoshihide Ikemiya break-down trash May 30 outside of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma's Gate 1. Their cleanup efforts are part of "Okinawa 5.30 Go-Mi-Zero," an islandwide campaign dedicated to beautifying Okinawa. Caldwell is a communications data chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma. Ikemiya is an intern with the office of government and external affairs for Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

out to clean and show junior Marines that they too are willing to get their hands dirty, according to Master Sgt. Alexis M. Gil, the communications maintenance chief with CAB.

“We’re leading by example,” said Gil. “It’s something we preach, and it’s preached to us from the moment we come into the Marine Corps. It’s something that Marines do very well. We are always trying to make sure that we show junior Marines that we, the senior leadership, are willing to do everything we ask of them. I think it sets a positive example not only for volunteer efforts but

overall leadership expectations.”

While the Marines and sailors of CAB worked on the waterfront, Marines and local volunteers cleaned-up the main road leading to MCAS Futenma’s gate one.

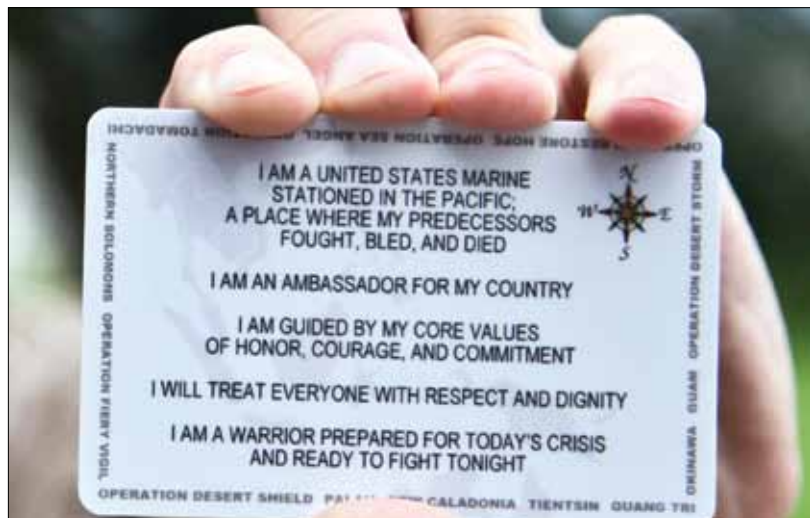
“It’s actually kind of fun to help out,” said Pfc. Wilson K. Lo, a fiscal clerk with the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma. “That it’s for a good cause makes it worthwhile.”

The civilian volunteers were excited to work with such good neighbors, according to Mikako Miyagi, the president of the Okinawa Osprey Fan Club.

“The volunteers are happy to see the island being kept clean by the Marines,” said Miyagi. “Working together was a great experience for everyone.”

The Marines and sailors agreed that all members of the military on Okinawa should make efforts to get personally involved with their community.

“Depending on whether you’re here for one, two or three years, it’s your home,” said Gil. “It shows the people of Okinawa that we’re not just here to train, we also want to be part of the community and give something back.”



Left, a Marine displays the back of the III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific values card. Marines of III MEF and MCIPAC will be issued the cards to remind them they are ambassadors in the Pacific. The photo to the right displays the front of the card. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning

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significant operations and campaigns from the Corps’ history, and a compass rose emphasizes the commandant of the Marine Corps’ vision of maintaining the alignment of our core values to “True North.”

“From day-one in the Marine Corps, our core values of honor, courage and commitment are essential to the Marine Corps’ heritage and

are an integral part of each Marine’s daily life, guiding his or her decisions,” said Sgt. Maj. Patrick L. Kimble, sergeant major, MCIPAC.

“Marines and sailors in the Asia-Pacific region embody the principle of being a Marine 24/7,” said Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, the commanding general of MCIPAC. “Our core values are what continue to strengthen relationships in this region and guide our

decisions wherever we are forward-deployed.”

The card reminds Marines they are not only warriors, but ambassadors for their country.

“We are forward-deployed in the region, and we call this place home,” said Glueck. “We are part of the community, and we reinforce and encourage continued exemplary standards of professional conduct, on and off duty, in any place we live or work.”



Indonesia and U.S. Marines run during a morning physical training session May 23 during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013 in Antralina, Indonesia. The Indonesian Marines are with Company A, 6th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, Korps Marinir, and the U.S. Marines are with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. John C. Lamb

US Marines, Korps Marinir train in Indonesia

1st Lt. Noah W. Rappahahn

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

JAKARTA, Indonesia — More than 300 Marines and sailors with Landing Force Company concluded training with Indonesia's Korps Marinir at the Antralina Training Area, Indonesia, during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013.

CARAT 13 is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia with the landing force serving as a Marine-operated, subcomponent of the larger exercise. The bilateral training in Antralina was conducted May 22-27 and included jungle patrolling, jungle survival training, combat lifesaver training and multiple live-fire exercises.

The Landing Force Company is comprised of Marines and sailors with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, with an attachment from 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, currently assigned to Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. The Indonesia forces are with Company A, 6th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, Korps Marinir.

"The units benefited from the training," said U.S. Marine Maj. John T. Ryan, the landing force

commanding officer. "Everyone worked hard to prepare for this, and that was evident in the successful execution of the training. I am proud of the Marines and sailors from both nations who participated in this exercise."

The training allowed both militaries to share their knowledge of different tactics and survival techniques, according to Korps Marinir 1st Lt. Yunda Andi, a platoon commander with Company A, 6th Bn.

"This training is always beneficial for everyone, as we train with some different methods," said Andi. "This allows us to compare methods, learn from each other, and improve ourselves."

In addition to the new training experiences, Marines and sailors had the opportunity to experience a different side of Indonesia by interacting with the citizens around the Antralina Training Area, according to U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Brenton Mastro, a platoon commander with Company I.

"Our interaction with local residents was just as important as our training with the Korps Marinir," said Mastro. "It allowed Marines to display their professionalism to the civilian community, as well as get a chance to experience a new culture."

Landing Force CARAT 13 will participate in a series of bilateral engagements over the next month

consisting of amphibious operations, bilateral small-unit training, and command and control exercises between the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the armed forces of Indonesia, the Kingdom of Thailand, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Singapore and the Republic of the Philippines to enhance interoperability with partner militaries, improve security in the region, and build lasting relationships with the host nations.



Assault amphibious vehicles are staged aboard the USS Tortuga in preparation for training events during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013 May 14 in Okinawa, Japan. The assault amphibious vehicles are with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, currently assigned to Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Cpl. John C. Lamb



Indonesia Marines demonstrate survival techniques to U.S. Marines during jungle survival training during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013 May 26 in Antralina, Indonesia. Photo by Cpl. John C. Lamb



Indonesia Marines teach indigenous cooking methods to U.S. Marines as a part of jungle survival training during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013 May 26 in Antralina, Indonesia. More than 1,000 Sailors and Marines are participating in CARAT Indonesia 2013. CARAT is a series of bilateral military exercises between the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the armed forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Kingdom of Thailand and Timor-Leste. The Indonesia Marines are with Company A, 6th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, Korps Marinir, and the U.S. Marines are with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. *Photo by Cpl. John C. Lamb*



U.S. Marines as a part of readiness and training



Indonesia Marines conduct military operations in urban terrain training with U.S. Marines May 24 during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2013 in Antralina, Indonesia. The bilateral training and subject-matter expert exchange included tactical casualty care, MOUT and jungle warfare training. *Photo by Cpl. John C. Lamb*

Combat engineers build bridge, increase capabilities

Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

To reach their objective, squads of Marines prepare to traverse a dangerous water crossing using a man-made bridge. As they move across the bridge, they can feel confident knowing that combat engineers spent long hours preparing for this crucial moment.

Combat engineers with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, assembled a medium-girder bridge May 30 at Camp Hansen in preparation to support exercises and real-world contingencies.

The purpose of the training was to hone bridge-assembly skills and increase the capabilities of the battalion's newest combat engineers to provide tactical movement within an operational environment.

The junior Marines must be ready to deploy and be confident to perform their job at an exemplary level, according to Sgt. Joseph W. Manning, a combat engineer with the battalion.

"For this training, we gathered the newest combat engineers to construct their largest bridge to date," said Manning.

An MGB is a lightweight, man-portable bridge that is assembled without help from heavy



Combat engineers push a medium-girder bridge over a streambed May 30 at Camp Hansen. The MGB is a lightweight, man-portable bridge that allows troop movement and can be assembled without heavy equipment. The combat engineers are with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

equipment and can support up to two tons of weight.

The assembly of an MGB is like building blocks with the biggest difference being that a single MGB part needs to be carried by a minimum of four Marines, according to Lance Cpl. Andrew T. Boling, a combat engineer with the battalion.

"We connected the bridge part-by-part, starting with the front ramps to one of the bankseat beams, used to keep the bridge girders properly spaced, and then we added several panels all the way to the second bankseat beam," said Boling. "Once we finished, we connected the back ramps to complete the bridge."

Their coordination was directed through commands such as "lay hold" and "heave," according to Boling. On the command "lay hold," the Marines prepared to lift the

part and when issued the command "heave," they would simultaneously lift the equipment.

"It is important to coordinate carefully for safety purposes," said Boling. "The pieces of the bridge are heavy, and the teamwork prevents a Marine from injuring their back by attempting to carry it alone."

While the bridge's parts are heavy and the task may seem daunting, it is vital to train on its successful construction and assembly, according to Boling.

The primary use of an MGB is to provide accessibility and mobility to ground forces.

"This bridge is frequently used in a deployed setting and needs about 10-20 combat engineers to construct it," said Lance Cpl. Matthew E. Oldham, a combat engineer with the battalion. "The more familiar you are with the MGB,

the more comfortable you become with constructing it in more challenging settings."

Not only is it important to become comfortable with the MGB's components and tools, but it is important to work as a team to get the bridge assembled rapidly so ground forces can accomplish their mission, according to Oldham.

Maintaining valuable and perishable skills is imperative for mission success as Marines work together assembling the MGB, according to Boling.

"At our military occupational specialty school, we only have one opportunity to hone detailed aspects in our bridge-building skills," said Boling. "Being able to participate in this training is key to keeping our skills sharp. We never know when we will have to put what we learned to the test."

Whether providing ground or logistics combat elements accessibility and mobility through MGBs, or other related tasks, the combat engineers understand that only through continuous training can operational readiness be maintained.

"As combat engineers, we have a mission to accomplish, and we are well aware that other Marines depend on us," said Manning. "Therefore, we cannot be unprepared."

"The success of our job is important to carrying out the overall Marine Corps mission."

Students, Marines compete in amazing race challenge

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Excitement was in the air as students with Urasoe University and Marines with various units on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma raced toward checkpoints during an amazing race challenge June 2 in southern Okinawa.

The race was hosted by the single Marine program and consisted of challenges and checkpoints intended to not only teach the 40 students and Marines who participated about the surrounding community, but also build a positive relationship between the two groups.

The day began with the students and Marines forming into 10 teams of four people consisting of two students and two Marines. Language barriers were overcome as the teams discussed how they would face the challenges throughout the day.

"This event allowed the students participating to see the Marines in a different light than they are used to," said Gunnery Sgt. Terry P. Harden, an event volunteer and aviation operations chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "Through teamwork, participants can accomplish unfamiliar tasks while having fun."

The race began with the teams locating checkpoints at Shuri Castle before traveling to five other locations on the southern part of the island.

For the students and Marines, finding the locations was not the most challenging part of the day, according to Staff Sgt.

John P. McCrandall, an event volunteer and fire chief with H&HS, MCAS Futenma, MCIPAC. Instead, it was deciphering the clues

written in both Nihongo and English.

"We wanted to pick locations that were well known by both the students and Marines but make the clues a challenge to figure out," said McCrandall. "Communication was just one of the obstacles that had to be overcome today. It allowed the Marines to learn some of the Japanese language and for the students to practice their English-speaking skills."

The teams raced between checkpoints facing challenges that included learning traditional Japanese dance, finding various objects in a local mall, and tasting a Japanese dish of fermented soybeans known as natto.

"The natto challenge was my favorite because it was different and gave me a chance to experience the local culture through its food," said Lance Cpl. Brandon W. Felten, an aircraft intermediate level structures mechanic with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Overall, this was a great experience, especially for the Marines who participated."

Although some parts of the race seemed difficult, the experience afforded the students an opportunity to interact with Marines in a relaxed setting.

"It was a pleasure to participate in this event with the Marines," said Yui Kobayashi, a first-year student at Urasoe University. "I was happy to show the Marines around and to practice my English."

The challenge provided the students and Marines with an excellent learning opportunity and opened doors for future events, according to Harden.

"I have never seen anything like this done here on Okinawa," said Harden. "I think that it would be great to do an event such as this in the future."

In the end, it was team six of the amazing race that earned bragging rights and showed that through adapting to the situation, any obstacle can be overcome.

"This event allowed the students participating to see the Marines in a different light than they are used to."

Gunnery Sgt. Terry P. Harden

Community, service members compete in Henoko

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Working as a team and competing against others can build camaraderie and create fond memories.

Using the power of teamwork and friendly competition to build closer relationships between American and Japanese citizens, seven teams of Marines rowed to the finish line during the annual Henoko dragon boat races at Matsuda-No-Hama Beach June 2.

While citizens of Henoko competed in a separate division with 10 teams, Marines competed against more than 20 teams comprised of members of the Okinawa community and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force in the guest race division.

"I look forward to coming to these races every year," said Yamato Ogawa, a Henoko resident. "I always enjoy watching everyone competing and seeing everyone sharing laughter and memories."

The Marines competing hailed from various units with 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, stationed at Camp Schwab.

"As we approach the end of our tour on Okinawa, we couldn't have asked for a better way to leave," said Lt. Col. Christopher P. O'Connor, the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, currently deployed to Okinawa as part of the unit deployment program. "This was a great event, and I'm happy we had the opportunity to compete in it. Throughout our time here, we have seen how strong the relationship is between the Marines and the Henoko community members."

Prior to the execution of the boat races, Marines from Camp Schwab and members of the Henoko Senior Citizen's Association joined together to clean up the beach, according to Fumio Iha, the Camp Schwab community relations specialist.

"The Henoko community takes great pride in the dragon boat races every year," said Iha. "We wanted the area where the races were going to



Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, paddle through the water during the annual Henoko dragon boat races at Matsuda-No-Hama Beach June 2. The races are a revered tradition on Okinawa, and was once limited to Henoko community members. Since 1973, the honor to participate has been extended to service members, according to Fumio Iha, the liaison and community relations specialist for Camp Schwab. The Marines and sailors are with 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program.

take place to look nice. It was a great opportunity for us to work together for the community."

The dragon boat race is a revered tradition on Okinawa, and was once limited to Henoko community members. Since 1973, service members have been invited to participate each year making the event even more inclusive, according to Iha.

"For a lot of the Marines, especially the ones here on UDP, this can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Iha. "It is great to see both nations out here having a good time and enjoying the friendly competition."

During the races, each boat held 10 people consisting of eight rowers, one drummer to keep pace and a coxswain to steer the craft.

"Rowing these boats is a lot more challenging than it looks," said Lance Cpl. Ricardo

Gonzalez, a Marine Air-Ground Task Force planning specialist with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. "Some of the local teams are extremely impressive with their technique. Even though we didn't have much time to practice, it was still a great experience to get out there and give it our best shot."

After the races were finished, a ceremony was held to honor the top finishing teams. While none of the Marine teams received an award, the experience of participating was more than enough, according to Gonzalez.

"I take advantage of pretty much every cultural activity that I can," said Gonzalez. "This particular experience was a great challenge for me and also a great chance for me to meet new people and enjoy a day at the beach."



Teams consisting of Okinawa community members and U.S. service members make final preparations for the annual Henoko dragon boat races at Matsuda-No-Hama Beach June 2. During the races, each boat held 10 people consisting of eight rowers, one drummer who acts as the team's pacesetter and a coxswain to steer the craft.



Maria P. Luna performs a defensive move against Sgt. Itsarayouth G. Tisapak while attending a Marine Corps martial arts program exhibition during 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment Jane Wayne Day May 31 at Camp Hansen. The Jane Wayne Day built cohesion among the spouses and increased their level of understanding of the Marine Corps, according to Staff Sgt. Mark A. Dorcemus, a field artillery cannoneer with 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Tisapak is a communications technician with the battalion, and Luna is the spouse of a sailor.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

Spouses network, connect at Jane Wayne Day

Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

WHUMP! Was the sound of a punch as it landed on the striking pad that echoed throughout the gym as Kana St. Clair prepared to land another crushing blow. St. Clair was just one of a number of spouses who participated in the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment's, Jane Wayne Day May 31 at Camp Hansen.

Marines with 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, invited their spouses to participate in the battalion's Jane Wayne event to boost understanding between each other and build camaraderie among the service members' spouses.

"The overall objective for having a Jane Wayne Day is to bring our spouses together, so they can meet each other and network," said Lt. Col. Jason P. Brown, the commanding officer of 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "When Marines deploy, we leave our spouses behind. Although the Marine Corps has tremendous programs to help them during our absence, the wives can support each other better than any program. Having this firsthand-knowledge on how we as Marines operate will help too."

The spouses participated in several events throughout the day and got into the spirit of the event by applying camouflage face paint, donning flak jackets, and wearing Kevlar helmets.

"I would recommend this to others because it helps us meet the spouses here and build the rapport we need to have in case our service members deploy," said Kelly Dorcemus, a Marine spouse.

One of the activities the spouses participated in was a MCMAP training session.

They practiced myriad strikes and weapon drills consisting of punches, kicks, knee strikes, elbow strikes and baton techniques.

"I am a MCMAP instructor, and seeing

my wife take part in what I do made me proud," said Staff Sgt. Mark A. Dorcemus, a field artillery cannoneer with 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "With her being here, she gets a better understanding of what Marines go through when they train in MCMAP."

The MCMAP portion of Jane Wayne Day built cohesion among the spouses and a sense of the solidarity that is critical to Marines' success when deployed, according to Staff Sgt. Dorcemus.

"If I ever deploy, she and I will have a similar support system of close friends to help us through difficult times," said Staff Sgt. Dorcemus.

After departing the MCMAP training area, the spouses dined at the mess hall, took pictures of static artillery displays, and went to the supporting arms virtual trainer.

The SAV-T gives Marines the ability to simulate live-fire artillery missions without having to use actual weapons in field conditions, according to Cpl. John B. Black, a fire support man with 3rd Bn., 12th Marines.

After a demonstration of how the SAV-T works, the spouses called-in fire missions and watched the simulated results on a screen.

"The SAV-T simulates a battlefield where the spouses are placed in a forward-observer position," said Brown. "This aids in understanding how the different parts of an artillery battalion work together."

As the day ended, many felt the event allowed Marines and their spouses to grow closer together based on the new understanding of the necessary training needed for a successful deployment, according to Brown.

"I consider 3rd Bn., 12th Marines, to be a family," said Brown. "Not only do the Marines work together every day as a family, but the spouses and children are just as much a part of us too. This event brings all of us closer together. It gives us an opportunity to strengthen that family bond, and to make the entire unit better through common understanding."

Boy Scout, Marines repaint preschool

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

On a hot, sunny Saturday, children's laughter intermingled with the sound of paint chipping and hoses spraying.

Gid A. Merz, a 14-year-old Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 102, based out of Kadena Air Base, along with Marines and sailors of Camp Hansen volunteered to clean and repaint Sugi Noko Preschool in Kin Town June 1 as part of his Eagle Scout service project.

The project is an opportunity for a Life Scout to demonstrate leadership qualities while executing a task for the benefit of the community, according to Merz. This is an important step in attaining the next rank of Eagle Scout.

Merz organized the event with help from Takayuki Kayo, the community relations specialist on Camp Hansen.

"I wanted to do something big for our community, but I didn't want to just do something on base," said Merz. "I wanted to do something off base, so that it would have a positive effect and strengthen our relationship with the community."

Merz was soon introduced to the school principal, according to Kayo. Seeing the condition of the school's exterior inspired Merz to choose this venue for his project.

"It's very exciting to see the young people from military families take interest in the local community," said Kayo. "It shows that everyone can have a hand in making Okinawa their home."

Marines and sailors were eager to help Merz fulfill his project, according to Sgt. Nathan R. Campbell, an electronic maintenance technician with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"When I heard about this service project, I wanted to be a part of it," said Campbell. "It's important to do things like this to demonstrate our care for the community."

The USO donated the supplies for the volunteers to use to ensure that the project was done at no cost to the school, according to Merz.

Merz and the service members worked together to remove rust and plaster from the front of the building before painting the railings and walls.

"It was great that Merz and the Marines are doing a project to improve our facilities," said Katsutoshi Higa, the preschool's principal. "They supplied everything needed for the project, and we are so grateful."

Higa and the service members agreed this is only the beginning of a long-lasting relationship with local schools.

With the help of the Marines and sailors, the school children can be introduced to a different culture and learn about U.S. service members, according to Higa.

While the main goal of the project was to help the school, Merz believes that his service project was a chance to showcase the leadership abilities required of an Eagle Scout.

"The Boy Scouts of America teach strong moral values to young men across the globe," said Merz. "It strengthens bonds and friendships. I think the most important thing that the Boy Scouts teach you is leadership. I hope this project demonstrates that leadership, but more importantly I hope it helped out the kids."

In Theaters Now

JUNE 7 - 13

FOSTER

TODAY Fast & Furious 6 (PG13), 6 p.m.;

The Hangover Part III (R), 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Epic (PG), noon; Fast & Furious 6 (PG13), 3 p.m.;

The Hangover Part III (R), 6:30 p.m.; The Purge (R), 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Epic (PG), 1 p.m.; Now You See Me (PG13), 4 p.m.;

The Purge (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY The Purge (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Fast & Furious 6 (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Epic (PG), 6 p.m.; Iron Man 3 (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Epic (PG), noon; Now You See Me (PG13),

3 p.m.; Fast & Furious 6 (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Purge (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 1 and 4 p.m.;

The Purge (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Jurassic Park 3D (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Peeples (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY The Purge (R), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Now You See Me (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Epic (PG), 3 p.m.; The Purge (R), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Epic (PG), 3 p.m.; Now You See Me (PG13), 6 p.m.

MONDAY The Purge (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Fast & Furious 6 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 4 p.m.;

Jurassic Park 3D (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY The Purge (R), 4 p.m.; The Hangover Part III (PG13),

7 p.m.

MONDAY Fast & Furious 6 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Purge (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Purge (R),

6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Epic (PG), 12:30 p.m.; Now You See Me (PG13),

3:30 p.m.; The Purge (R), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Iron Man 3 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Now You See Me (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Evil Dead (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY The Purge (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY The Purge (R), 7 and 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 6 p.m.;

The Purge (R), 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 6 p.m.;

The Purge (R), 9 p.m.

MONDAY The Hangover Part III (R), 6 p.m.;

The Purge (R), 9 p.m.

TUESDAY The Host (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Now You See Me (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Fast & Furious 6 (PG13), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465

KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869

(USO NIGHT) 632-8781

MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890

(USO NIGHT) 636-2113

CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616

CAMP HANSEN 623-4564

(USO NIGHT) 623-5011

CAMP KINSER 637-2177

CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333

(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

AQUARIUM AND EXPO PARK TRIP

• The SMP is hosting a trip to the Churaumi Aquarium at Ocean Expo Park June 16. Come see the various aquatic creatures and other areas at the park. For more information, contact your unit representative or the SMP office.

MOUNT FUJI DISCOUNTS

• The SMP is offering discount prices for a Mount Fuji trip taking place Aug. 21-25. Full payment or cancellation of payment is due July 30. For more information, contact Tours Plus at 646-3502.

Mention of any company in this notice does not imply endorsement by the Marine Corps.

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

Which battle involved the heaviest urban fighting of the Vietnam War?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Which protective vest replaced the Interceptor Outer Tactical Vest in 2007?

ANSWER:

The Modular Tactical Vest, which features improvements such as side protection, a quick-release system and greater weight distribution.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Nan ji desu ka?”

(pronounced: nahn-jee dehs-kah)

It means, “What time is it?”

CHAPLAINS'

ORNER

“No battle is fought alone.”



Face troubles head-on with ferocity

Lt. Jonathan Black

CAMP HANSEN CHAPLAIN

One thousand and eighty-seven. It's an odd number, but it's an important one. Any idea what that number represents? It begins with a story. The year is 1918, the first week of June. Lt. Col. Frederick M. Wise writes this in his journal:

“At battle's end, I lined them up and looked them over. It was enough to break your heart. We left with 965 men in my battalion ... for ten months I trained them, saw them grow into Marines. Now, before me stood only 350 of them, but the forest was ours.”

The forest he was referring to is Belleau Wood. 1,087 is the number of Marines killed or wounded in one day of fighting the Germans in order to take those woods. You may recall that this is the battle where Marines earned the moniker “Teufelshunde” or “Devil Dog.” It was the name used to describe the Marines who fought with such ferocity that

even with heavy losses, they prevailed against insurmountable odds.

Ferocity, now that is a great word! We all need more ferocity in our lives. At any time we could be faced with seemingly insurmountable odds. Your debt is too deep. Your relationships are too broken. Your pain is too overwhelming. Your future is too dim. At times like these, it is good for us to remember that we are made of the same stuff as the “Teufelshunde.”

We need to bring the fight to the issues that weigh so heavily on us. In other words, we need to face our troubles head-on or they will run us into the ground. Victory requires ferocity.

There's one more thing you should know. No battle is fought alone. There are resources available. There are those beside us, and those who supervise us who are ready to stand with us. Sometimes, it's just enough to know that even in our darkest hours, there is a God who loves us and who is willing to walk beside us every step of the way.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”